

# Prayer Alert

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**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth. (Psalm 108:5)**

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

You may like to explore our new online Prayer [Alert Prayer Wall](#) where we can add our own prayers and praise, interactively. We trust that you will find this helpful and encouraging!

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Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

Blessings,

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert Team

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## Praise Reports

### [Give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II](#)

It was announced on 8 September that the Queen had died following a short illness, attended by all four of her children. She was Britain's longest reigning sovereign and the world's oldest monarch. On 6 September she had presided over the ceremonial handover of power to new prime minister Liz Truss at Balmoral, her summer residence. Her oldest son, now King Charles III, said his mother's death was a moment of 'the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family'. Justin Welby said, 'As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service, and humility has helped us make sense of who we are.'

Praise: God for the example set by Queen Elizabeth of faith, commitment and service. Remember all her family and the nation as we mourn, and pray for King Charles III. (1 Timothy 4:8b)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61585886](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61585886)

### [China: church member released from jail](#)

Xing Hongwei is a member of China's Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC). He was arrested in a worship service raid on 14 August and suffered greatly whilst in detention due to his medical condition. He has been freed on bail and enjoyed a celebration meal with his family. Mr Hongwei was originally arrested after more than twenty police officers raided an ERCC church service at a tea shop. Sixty church members were locked inside the building and released only after they provided their identification. Mr Hongwei was arrested because he refused to comply with the authorities' demands. ERCC, which is heavily persecuted, announced Mr Hongwei's release in a prayer request update. His faith became firmer during his time in detention and he jokingly said that he successfully went on a diet, which he could not have achieved if outside.

Praise: God for Xing Hongwei's release. Ask God for more Christians to be set free from prison. (Psalm 69:33)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/china-early-rain-covenant-church-member-released-from-jail](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/china-early-rain-covenant-church-member-released-from-jail)

### [Pakistan: preaching Christianity 'not a crime'](#)

The Pakistani Supreme Court has issued a highly significant and welcome ruling, which includes the declaration that the preaching of Christianity 'is not a crime, nor can it be made into one'. The nine-page ruling is a clear and comprehensive denunciation of the way in which 'blasphemy' laws are misused in Pakistan. The court raises issues such as false and malicious accusations, the lack of credible evidence in many cases, and the mob violence with which an accused person is often threatened. One judge said, 'Many a time false allegations are levelled to settle personal scores, and cases are also registered for mischievous purposes or on account of ulterior motives'.

Praise: God for this good news for Pakistan's Christians. Pray that the ruling will be put into effect. (Psalm 146:7a)

More: [www.barnabasfund.org/gb/news/editorial-supreme-court-of-pakistan-says-preaching-christianity-not-a-cr/](http://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/news/editorial-supreme-court-of-pakistan-says-preaching-christianity-not-a-cr/)

## British Isles

### Pray for the Government

Lord, we thank You for every miracle You have worked in our nation in past seasons: for the turnarounds, the revivals and the personal miracles of provision and healing which have transformed lives, families, and communities. In the name of Jesus we declare what we have seen in the past is only a shadow of what we will see in the days ahead. We pray for Liz Truss; may she step into Kingdom purpose, moving the very structures of the nation towards righteousness and Godliness. We pray for justice, truth, mercy and moral law to be established, and for every government action to cause the UK to be aligned to God's values and objectives within our land. May she carry and impart God's vision to the men and women in her Cabinet, and may every MP walk in wisdom and integrity according to Your plans. May our Christian MPs boldly step into their identity and purpose.

Pray: for this government to demonstrate Kingdom values. (Jeremiah 17:7,8)

More: [mailchi.mp/pftn/government-new-prime-minister](mailto:mailchi.mp/pftn/government-new-prime-minister)

### New strain of monkeypox found in UK

Current guidance states that if a case of monkeypox is known to be imported from West Africa, a region where it has been endemic for decades, then the individual must be admitted to a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) hospital unit for monitoring. Recently, an individual was admitted to the HCID ward at Royal Liverpool University Hospital. Preliminary analysis revealed the type of monkeypox virus they contracted is a different strain from the one widely currently circulating in the UK with 3,279 known cases (79 were identified in the last week). Dr Sophia Maki said, 'We are working to contact the individuals who have had close contact with the person infected with the new variant prior to confirmation of their infection. We will assess them as necessary and provide advice.' [See](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/monkeypox-cases-confirmed-in-england-latest-updates)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/monkeypox-cases-confirmed-in-england-latest-updates>

Pray: for health officials to be successful tracking down every close contact the person may have had and prevent further contamination of a new strain. (Proverbs 4:20-22)

More: [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/01/monkeypox-new-strain-found-uk/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/01/monkeypox-new-strain-found-uk/)

### Tragic extent of UK family breakdown

A new review from the Children's Commissioner has shown that 23% of UK families are lone-parent - 10% higher than Europe's average. The communities minister highlighted the need for better government policies that support families. The head of public policy said, 'What is required is not just laws but wholesale culture changes. We need to value marriage (between a man and a woman) as a sacred, lifelong bond, and promote marriage as the best and most stable and successful structure for bringing up children.' There are no policy recommendations in Part 1 of the review, but Part 2 will look at the impact of its policies on families. Sadly, for too long, the Government has done little or nothing to promote or support families. In fact, it has done the opposite, finding time in the coronavirus crisis to pass legislation for 'no-fault divorce'. This means potentially enabling one partner to unilaterally destroy the family.

Pray: for the Government to prioritise supporting families. (Psalm 34:18)

More: [christianconcern.com/comment/official-report-shows-tragic-extent-of-uk-family-breakdown/](https://christianconcern.com/comment/official-report-shows-tragic-extent-of-uk-family-breakdown/)

### Pray for Wales

People in Wales were among the first in the British Isles to become Christian, but today fewer than 50% of Welsh people call themselves Christian. What was once a strong Celtic Church is in significant decline. Many Welsh people are 'Nones' - persons with no religious affiliation. We know the Holy Spirit can soften their hearts, convict them of sin and the need for redemption and woo the seekers. Some small, evangelical Welsh churches are sharing the Gospel. May God help these churches to grow. May they answer the call of Christ to be His light in Wales. Pray for bold faith and witness by the remnant of believers among the many small dying churches. Pray for the Holy Spirit's fire among the mostly faithless youth, igniting a new great Welsh revival. Pray for renewed energy and wisdom for those already at work among growing pockets of believers.

Pray: for God to send many into this harvest field of green hills and valleys. (Matthew 9:37,38)

More: [prayercast.com/wales.html](http://prayercast.com/wales.html)

### Seeds of prayer: fields of hope

At the time of writing, 11 of 14 English Environment Agency areas have declared a drought. Spain's olive oil production is devastated, and French wine making is threatened (Haggai 1:10-11). The provision of grain, oil, food and energy are challenged. Farmers are in the front line: lost harvests, grazing or planting new crops, and livestock being fed as it is winter already. This will increasingly impact all relying on agriculture and related industries. Thus, the challenge grows for faithful obedience and wholehearted trust in the Lord, for who He is and not just as provider. Ask the Lord to strengthen believers in this season so we may display faithfulness, generosity, hope and stability to those around us, prompting them to seek the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 27:13). May we encourage one another and look to the Lord to supply all our needs, whether He sends drought or rain.

Pray: for all who are experiencing hardship in this season. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

More: [hopeforthecountryside.uk/seedsprayer/](http://hopeforthecountryside.uk/seedsprayer/)

### 'Black hole' of child suicide

Suicide is the biggest killer of people aged under 35 in the UK. 'However bad you feel, this will pass. You are not alone, things will look different tomorrow.' That is what Pete would have said to his only child, Jamie, if he had been able to read his suicide note before he died. Jamie was one of 1,621 young people under 35 who took their own lives in 2019. After Pete had struggled to cope with his death for two years, he read about three fathers going through the same thing. Known as the 'Three Dads', Andy, Mike and Tim walked 300 miles, in memory of their three daughters, to raise £3,000 for suicide prevention charity Papyrus (<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/aboutus/>). They eventually raised over £800,000. Over 200 school children commit suicide every year. They say we are doing nothing to equip young people with understanding and skills that could allow them to save themselves.

Pray: for local councils, churches, healthcare professionals, and school staff to learn suicide prevention skills and ways to promote positive emotional wellbeing in youth. (Proverbs 3:1-5)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-62646892](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-62646892)

## Europe

### UK / Ireland Brexit deadlock

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern have been working behind the scenes to get the UK and EU back to the negotiating table over Brexit and the Stormont government collapse. Hard Brexiter Steve Baker has been transferred to the Northern Ireland office, replacing Conor Burns, who went to the Department for International Trade. UK-EU protocol talks were paused when Russia invaded Ukraine. The already strained relations deteriorated further in June when Liz Truss introduced a bill enabling the UK to remove some Northern Ireland Brexit protocol. Hopes of a thaw in UK-EU relations have been fuelled by the absence of Lord Frost from Truss's new cabinet. Burns met Europe's Marcus Šešćovič at the weekend and had 'constructive and prolonged talks'. He told MPs, 'I am convinced that if the appetite exists, we can find a way to a negotiated solution to the Northern Ireland protocol.'

Pray: for parties and civic representatives to break the double deadlock over the Northern Ireland protocol and power-sharing, which the Democratic Unionists are boycotting. (Psalm 133:1)

More: [www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/07/tony-blair-bertie-ahern-thanked-for-help-in-uk-eu-brexit-deadlock](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/07/tony-blair-bertie-ahern-thanked-for-help-in-uk-eu-brexit-deadlock)

### Russia: gas pipeline to EU still closed

Russia's gas pipeline to Europe did not reopen, as promised, on 3 September. Gazprom said it could close indefinitely. This is no coincidence. Russia's state-controlled gas giant announced the indefinite halt to gas flows through Europe's key energy artery hours after leading western finance ministers escalated sanctions on Russian oil. Gazprom's official reason is that an oil leak has been found and the pipeline cannot work without German imports of technology, which are now subject to sanctions. Many believe this is an attempt to blackmail Europe over supplies. This is a very serious development. Even during the height of the Cold War, Russia kept supplies of its gas flowing into Europe. However, this cut-off - and the pointed attempt by Gazprom to blame the German energy giant Siemens for the malfunction - is the culmination of decades of dysfunction in the energy relationship between the two countries.

Pray: for Europe to wean itself off Russian energy - reducing Putin's ability to finance war. (Ephesians 5:15)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62766867](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62766867)

### Ukraine: joy and trauma for schoolchildren

379 children have been killed since the war in Ukraine began; 223 are missing; 7,013 children have been forcibly transferred to Russia. Six months of war have damaged 2,400 schools and destroyed 269. Most teenagers are anxious about returning to school. For Mariia Makohin, walking through the college gates was an act of bravery. 'I was a little bit nervous because I don't know what Russian terrorists will do nowadays. Every day we have sirens, and I don't know if they will attack us when we are at school.' The return to school routine introduced a new ritual: a practice run to the school's bomb shelter in the basement. In schools across Ukraine, debris has been cleared, blood scrubbed off floors, and repairs made where possible as a generation of shell-shocked children return to their studies. Only half of Ukraine's schools have reopened, due to extreme risks of bombings.

Pray: for shell-shocked children to receive counselling and comfort, and for parents and teachers to be able to provide online education for frightened children. (Isaiah 12:2)

More: [www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/09/02/joy-trauma-meet-ukraines-children-return-classrooms/](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/09/02/joy-trauma-meet-ukraines-children-return-classrooms/)

## Worldwide

### Myanmar: junta burning thousands of homes

The military junta continues to bomb civilians, and over 28,000 homes have been burnt down since the February 2021 coup. As order breaks down, soaring food prices cause a hunger crisis. Many are fleeing Myanmar if they get a chance. AMG has established a camp with over fifty homes for refugee families and two hostels for lone children. An AMG member met a young Christian woman at the camp who suffered watching her mother abused and scarred by her alcoholic father. Then her mother became a Christian and prayed fervently for her father. Miraculously, he came to Christ and left his drinking and drugs. As the military violence approached, her parents sent her across the border to safety. Myanmar females live in fear of being sexually assaulted by the military. One boy came into the hostel for lone children traumatised, always wanting to fight others. Now, his voice has been heard singing with other children. Pray for God's protection over refugee camps.

Pray: for the lonely, fearful, and traumatised who are fleeing the violence from Buddhists. (Jeremiah 30:17)

More: [www.mnnonline.org/news/myanmar-military-has-burned-down-over-28000-homes/](https://www.mnnonline.org/news/myanmar-military-has-burned-down-over-28000-homes/)

### Climate change wakeup call

Pakistan's floods are a 'wake-up call' to the threats of climate change. A sense of injustice is keenly felt. Pakistan contributes -1% of global greenhouse gases but its geography makes it exceptionally vulnerable to climate change. Global warming makes air and sea temperatures rise, causing more evaporation. Warmer air holds more moisture, making monsoon rainfall more intense. Pakistan also has more glacial ice than anywhere in the world outside of the polar regions and is referred to as the 'third pole'. As the world warms, glacial ice melts. Glaciers in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regions are melting rapidly, creating over 3,000 lakes. 33 risk suddenly bursting, which could unleash millions of cubic metres of water and debris, putting seven million people at risk. Glacial lake outbursts are already damaging infrastructure. Climate impact scientist Saeed said Pakistan's floods are 'absolutely a wake-up call to governments globally who promised to tackle climate change at successive UN climate conferences'.

Pray: for countries to act to prevent further warming, to avoid a death sentence for millions. (Jeremiah 2:7)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-62758811](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-62758811)

### **Nigeria: Christians targeted for forced marriages**

A recent UN report stated as many as three out of four women are forced into marriage among certain Nigerian groups. Take for example Lena, a 14-year-old girl. She became a Christian, but as her father was a Muslim leader in the mosque, she knew it was going to cause problems. Sure enough, she survived physical abuse from her father, forced marriage, and violent sexual assault. By the time she finally escaped, she was a single mother who could not read or write. She persevered with an education and vocational training to be self-supporting. After attending a discipleship school, Lena plans on going back to her hometown, this time as a missionary. Pray for Nigerian women suffering persecution and assault. Pray for healed emotions for the traumatised. Ask God to touch the hearts of abusers perpetuating violence, and thank Him for the courage of women like Lena.

Pray: for an end to the persecution and the violence which is going on in northern Nigeria. (Isaiah 60:18)

More: [www.mnnonline.org/news/christians-targeted-for-forced-marriages-in-nigeria/](http://www.mnnonline.org/news/christians-targeted-for-forced-marriages-in-nigeria/)

### **China giving weapons to Putin**

Russia has to buy military hardware from North Korea and Iran as sanctions squeeze its ability to supply weaponry. Iran and North Korea, also targets of sanctions, have deepened ties with Russia since Putin invaded Ukraine. Kim Jong-un accused the West of pursuing a 'hegemonic policy' that justified Russia's use of force, and vowed to deepen 'comradely friendship' with Moscow. Putin said the two countries would expand their 'comprehensive and constructive bilateral relations'. Last week the Biden administration said the first shipments of Iranian-made drones had been delivered to Russia, and Russian operators are in Iran receiving training on the Mohajer-6 and Shahed series weapons. Many of the drones have been beset by mechanical and technical problems since delivery. Iran officially denied delivering weapons to either side of the conflict, but the USA said Tehran was planning to supply Moscow with potentially hundreds of drones, some with combat capabilities for its war in Ukraine.

Pray: for Moscow's ability to resupply its military to be continually impaired, for combat losses to be severely increased, and for Russian tactics to be hampered. (1 Corinthians 15:55)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62804825](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62804825)

### **Somalia: al-Shabaab replacing al-Qaeda**

On 2 September, al-Shabaab terrorists killed 18 civilians and destroyed several relief trucks in central Somalia. Al-Shabaab has increased attacks over the summer. In August they killed several Somali soldiers and attacked military bases in Kenya, Mali, and Ethiopia. An attack on a Mogadishu hotel lasting 35 hours killed 21 people. Its leaders want to replace al-Qaeda and expand their reach. Al-Qaeda has not found a leader to replace Ayman al-Zawahiri. If one is not chosen soon, al-Shabaab could declare its East African government separate from al-Qaeda and hope to overthrow the government of Somalia itself. They are receiving resources through forcing people to pay taxes by threatening them, bombing their businesses, or kidnapping their daughters. Despite the danger, many continue to share the story of Jesus. These are not US or European missionaries; they are Muslim background believers living in close proximity in the same culture. World Mission sends them solar-powered audio Bibles in the local language.

Pray: for the love of God to bring healing and hope to Somalia. (Romans 12:12)

More: [www.mnnonline.org/news/al-shabab-looks-to-replace-al-qaeda/](http://www.mnnonline.org/news/al-shabab-looks-to-replace-al-qaeda/)

### **Brazil: Bolsonaro leads massive rallies**

President Bolsonaro has delivered fiery speeches to tens of thousands of supporters at rallies ahead of a divisive election on 2 October when opinion polls suggest he will be defeated. Bolsonaro has repeatedly attacked Supreme Court justices, alleging (without any evidence) that Brazil's electronic voting system is vulnerable to widespread fraud. Legal experts have rejected that allegation, and critics accuse him of sowing doubt ahead of the election to dispute the results, as was done by Donald Trump, whom Bolsonaro has emulated. 'Bolsonaro, activate the military to depose the Supreme Court,' said one banner carried by Suely Ferreira who said, 'Our country is being ruined by the high court's dictatorship. We love our president. Everyone I know supports him. He will win. There's no way he could lose.' The president's attacks on the voting system have stirred calls for a military coup from some more radical backers, fuelling concerns that the nation could see election-related violence.

Pray: for Bolsonaro to conduct himself peacefully, and for evil to be revealed for what it is. (1 Peter 3:11)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/7/brazils-bolsonaro-leads-massive-independence-day-rally](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/7/brazils-bolsonaro-leads-massive-independence-day-rally)

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